

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

May 12-18, 2008 Volume 2, Issue 82



Weekly Update

Construction begins on US 231 in Spencer County

May 13, 2008— Governor Mitch Daniels, together with local and state officials, broke ground last week on two additional segments of the US 231 Corridor in Spencer County. In all, the US 231 Corridor, which will improve access between Kentucky and Interstate 64, is a \$146 million project. Contracts totaling \$47.7 million have been awarded for this portion of corridor.

"Because, and only because of the Major Moves transaction, our wait for a bigger, better US 231 is over. And because we have the dollars to build it now, it will cost millions less than was expected, and we'll invest those savings in more roads and more jobs," said Daniels.

The original estimated cost of the corridor was nearly \$163 million, with a projected completion date of 2014. But because the project has been accelerated by three years, the Indiana Department of Transportation has been able to reduce its cost. The US 231 corridor project will fulfill a long-standing commitment by the state, local government, regional planning commissions, and citizens to improve US 231 between the Ohio River and Interstate 64. Studies on improvements to US 231 were initiated years ago for safety and economic development reasons.

The US 231 Spencer County Corridor includes added capacity for a 20.3-mile section of US 231, which is currently a two-lane rural road with inadequate capacity. When complete, the new, limited access travel corridor allows for the distribution of products from southwestern Indiana. The project has an anticipated completion date of 2011.



May 13, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined local and state officials to break ground on two additional segments of the US 231 Corridor in Spencer County. Major Moves funding accelerated the project by 3 years, which saved the state an estimated \$17 million.



May 13, 2008- Governor Daniels met with local residents before a groundbreaking ceremony for the US 231 Corridor in Spencer County. The Major Moves project, which will improve access between Kentucky and Interstate 64, is a \$146 million investment.

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

Governor orders state to repay debt to local governments ahead of schedule

May 16, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels has ordered that the remaining \$212 million long owed to local governments be repaid by the end of May, a year ahead of schedule.

"As the only state in the Midwest that is in the black fiscally, we're being extremely careful about every dollar. But the very strong March and April revenues strengthen our confidence that we will register a fourth straight surplus this year, and that we can accelerate this final repayment of the debts the state once owed to schools and towns," said Daniels. "With this year's property tax cuts, we've entered a new era of taxpayer protection. We know there will be an adjustment period for local taxing units and want to do all we can to help."

During an extended period of deficit spending, starting in 2002, state government delayed payments totaling \$761 million to K-12 schools, higher education and local governments.

Beginning in January 2006, the governor ordered repayments to begin. Since then, \$518 million has been repaid:

- \$156 million owed to K-12 schools was repaid in January 2006 following the state's successful tax amnesty program.
- The remainder of the K-12 school debt, \$160 million, was repaid in July 2006.
- \$131 million was returned to local governments in May 2007
- \$40 million was returned to higher education throughout Fiscal Year 2007 and \$31 million this fiscal year. The remaining \$31 million will be distributed in the next fiscal year.

The funds will be sent to the auditors in all 92 counties, who are responsible for distributing the appropriate share to the other taxing units. The state was scheduled to send \$106 million to local governments this month but will now send \$212 million, which will complete all that is owed. The amount each county will receive may be found [here](#).

**What's Happening
In My County**
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May 14, 2008- Governor Daniels met local officials outside Wood Memorial Junior/Senior High School in Oakland City.



May 14, 2008- Governor Daniels with State Representative Dave Crooks outside WAMW radio studios in Washington. The governor visited the Washington Radio Center to record a segment for the Dave Crooks Show, "Indiana's Weekly Political Talk Show."



May 14, 2008- Governor Daniels joined Loogootee junior and senior high school students for a question and answer session in the school's auditorium.

Did you know...

...new pictures are added to Governor Daniels' photo gallery every week? Click [here](#) for more!